

## Hysterical hysterics of Desperate Housewives - MabuhayRadio

Written by Jesse Jose

Monday, 08 October 2007 13:35 - Last Updated Monday, 29 October 2007 16:45

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The hysteria has now died down. But at its peak, it was hysterical. Over and over, we heard words like:

“It’s a SLUR!”

“It’s RACIST!”

“It’s an INSULT to the Filipino people!”

“It’s a denigration of the educational system in the Philippines! It’s a putdown for Fil-Am doctors schooled in the Philippines!”

**The call to arms was: SUGUD, MGA KAPATID!!! And like our Katipuneros before us, with our TABAKS, sugud we did.**

Greedy Fil-Am lawyers screamed: “Let’s sue! Let’s sue! Let’s get some PERA out of this!”

Y’all know what I am talking about, right? Yeah, that Sunday soap opera on ABC, popularly known as, “Desperate Housewives.” America’s favorite soap. And my wife’s, too. From what I heard, America’s first lady, Mrs. Laura Bush, never fails to also watch it.

For those of you who might have missed it, in a segment that was aired two Sundays ago, Susan, played by Teri Hatcher goes in for a medical checkup and is shocked to learn when the gynecologist who examined her told her that she may be “going through a menopause.”

The dialogue went like this:

**Doctor:** “Listen, Susan, I know for a lot of women the word ‘menopause’ has negative connotations. You hear ‘aging,’ ‘brittle bones,’ ‘loss of sexual desire.’”

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**Susan:** "Ok, before we go any further, can I check these diplomas? Just to make sure they aren't, like, from some medical school in the Philippines."

### Bingo!

Like thunder and avalanche combined, ABC was inundated with wrathful calls, emails and letters from Fil-Ams and Filipinos ... and some TNTs.

"A statement that devalues Filipinos in healthcare is extremely unfounded, considering the overwhelming presence of Filipinos and Fil-Ams in the medical field," they cried.

True. I agree. But ... here's my take:

"Mga kabayan, welcome to America! Where opinions are as diverse as its people. Where opinions are jokes, and jokes are opinions and can be said FREELY, without fear. Love it or leave it!

"It was a joke, plain and simple. It wasn't a slur. It was an opinion, in the form of a joke. It was a joke, period ... perhaps, kind of stupid, like many other stupid jokes we've heard before. Mas grabe pa nga yung mga dyoks tungkol kay Bush. Masyadong naman tayong balat sibuyas. Get over it.

"Count your blessings for being in America. As the song says, "Enjoy na lang kayo and have a good time."

Or as a certain Art Tolentino said in an online debate of this issue: "...Their right to say is protected under the First Amendment. Making fun of another country's education system is NOT racist or discriminatory as defined by Civil Rights Act Title VII. This is NOT slander because the defense for slander is the truth. The (script) writer can claim he is referring to something he read somewhere about Philippine diploma mills. You (Fil-Am doctors) cannot prove damages to your career because you guys are some of the best and highest-paid doctors in America."

Right on.

**Mr. Tolentino** added that if a "Fil-Am doctor somewhere can prove he got fired from his job or his patients left him because of the 'Desperate Housewives' remark, then he can sue and the jury may award him some monetary restitution. I doubt it. Lighten up. Give it a rest."

I agree.

And, as **Colonel, Frank Quesada**, Ret., a columnist in another Fil-Am publication in California, said: "... the issues served as a focal-and-uniting exercise in not letting the culprits get away with it.

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“I believe our kababayans have made their point. A public apology sufficed.... To belabor the subject, is like beating a dead horse. Grandstanding it in court, in my opinion, becomes superfluous. I don't see any money in it.”

Right on, Colonel. Cheers.

And to ABC: Love those lovely “DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES,” especially THAT flighty, silly Susan. It would be her to ask and say: “OK, before we go any further, can I check these diplomas? Just to make sure they aren't, like, from some medical school in the Philippines.”

Tee-hee. It's a silly joke from that silly Susan, that's all.

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